



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - August 6, 2003**

- ***In the West***, the return of hot, dry weather is straining drought-reduced irrigation reserves in the ***Four Corners region***. Meanwhile in the ***Northwest***, scattered showers are aiding rangelands and immature summer crops, following a prolonged period of hot, dry weather.
- ***On the Plains***, heat and drought continue to stress immature summer crops, including cotton and sorghum, across ***southern parts of the region***. Farther north, conditions remain mostly favorable for immature summer crops across the ***eastern Dakotas***, while very warm, unfavorably dry weather prevails elsewhere on the ***northern and central Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, the latest in a series of disturbances is sparking scattered showers and maintaining favorably cool conditions for reproductive to filling corn and soybeans. Stress on summer crops due to lack of soil moisture remains largely confined to areas along, west, and south of the ***Missouri River***.
- ***In the South***, widespread showers and thunderstorms from the ***Delta to the East Coast*** are slowing fieldwork but maintaining adequate to abundant soil moisture reserves for pastures and immature summer crops. In contrast, the ***western Gulf Coast region*** continues to experience hot weather and a drying trend.

**Outlook:** A warm, humid, unstable air mass will maintain the threat of showers and thunderstorms through week's end across the ***eastern half of the U.S.*** Locally heavy showers may cause isolated flash flooding in the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***. Meanwhile, scattered showers will provide localized relief from an ongoing heat wave in ***central and southern portions of the Rockies and Plains***. Farther west, showers and thunderstorms will accompany a weak disturbance crossing ***northern parts of the Rockies and Plains***, while hot dry weather will persist in the ***Great Basin and Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 11-15 calls for wetter-than-normal conditions in the ***northern Rockies and northern High Plains***, and from the ***central Gulf Coast to the Atlantic Coast States***. Below-normal rainfall is forecast across the ***central and southern Plains*** and the ***Southwest***. Above-normal temperatures are likely from across the ***Rockies, High Plains*** and ***northern New England***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected from the ***Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys southward to the Gulf Coast***.

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